

hero. Cliches can be tiresome, but generally they have to be true to become a cliché. One such unsung hero in the history of this House recently died. His name was Leo Diehl.

Tip O'Neill was a great Speaker, and we have seen before and since that it is not as easy to be a successful Speaker as it may look. One reason Tip was so good at his job was the friendship and partnership he had with Leo Diehl.

Leo Diehl was a man of integrity, vision and intelligence. He had lost the use of much of his body, but his brain worked, and his eyes and ears and mouth. Because of the great friendship with Leo Diehl, because he could so clearly rely on a man of such strength of character and wisdom, that was one of the reasons that Tip O'Neill's speakership, as he was free to acknowledge, was so successful.

Leo Diehl recently died at the age of 92. He was a great figure in the history of this House, and I think it is appropriate that those of us particularly who served under Tip O'Neill's speakership with Leo Diehl mourn him today.

REMEMBERING LEO DIEHL

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I want to join with my colleague from Massachusetts, Congressman BARNEY FRANK, in paying tribute to a great man, Leo Diehl, who recently died.

He served as Tip O'Neill's right-hand man and was a great counselor not only to Tip, but to so many people who served in this Congress during those years. Those of us who were members of congressional staff remember him with great fondness and great respect.

The great people who serve in this institution are not just the people who get elected, but often those who serve those who are elected. Leo Diehl was a wonderful man. The world has lost a great person.

□ 1030

PRESIDENT BUSH MISREPRESENTS IRAQ'S IMPACT ON THE OVERALL GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, it is nice to see that we really and finally are hearing the truth from the Bush administration about the Iraq war and its impact on the overall global war on terror. The problem is we didn't hear it from the President himself. No. It comes from a top secret intelligence document that I am sure the President hoped never saw the light of day.

For the better part of a month now, President Bush has been trying to persuade the American people that we are

safer today than we were before 9/11. This national intelligence report contradicts the President's statements and says that the war in Iraq has actually made our fight against terrorism even more difficult.

So the question is, why would the President go out and say we are safer if his intelligence agencies refute these claims? Either President Bush has not personally read the top secret report or he is not leveling with the American people about the real worldwide threat we continue to face and how Iraq has made those threats even worse.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2679, VETERANS' MEMORIALS, BOY SCOUTS, PUBLIC SEALS, AND OTHER PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS OF RELIGION PROTECTION ACT OF 2006

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1038 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1038

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 2679) to amend the Revised Statutes of the United States to eliminate the chilling effect on the constitutionally protected expression of religion by State and local officials that results from the threat that potential litigants may seek damages and attorney's fees. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 1038 is a closed rule. It allows 1 hour of debate in the House equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. It waives all points of order against consideration of the bill, and it provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute as reported by the Committee on the Judiciary shall be considered as adopted. H. Res. 1038 also provides for one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, as you and many others may have noticed, if you look up from the front podium, in the center of the

molding above the gallery is a sculpture of Moses, the man who freed the slaves in Egypt and introduced God's law to man. Moses is at the forefront of all of the great legal scholars depicted in this Chamber because of his responsibilities as both a religious leader and the custodian of God's law.

The Ten Commandments are the foundation of common law and the "rights endowed by our Creator." However, in recent decades, the Ten Commandments, religious symbols, and religious liberties in general have been under attack. More specifically, they have been under attack by the same interests that claim to represent civil liberties and free speech.

On July 19, 2005, a month after the Supreme Court ruled on the two Kentucky Ten Commandments cases, United States District Court Judge William O'Kelley ruled in my home State of Georgia that the courthouse in Barrow County, my daughter-in-law's home, had to remove a framed poster of the Ten Commandments and awarded the American Civil Liberties Union, the ACLU, \$150,000.

Mr. Speaker, small counties like Barrow cannot afford these costly lawsuits; and my daughter-in-law's parents, Emory and Pat House of Winder, Georgia, experienced an increase in their taxes to help pay for these court costs and the legal fees.

This past July, we had a debate over legislation to preserve the Mount Soledad Veterans Memorial in San Diego, California, from having to remove a cross. Mr. Speaker, one can only wonder how those Korean War veterans, many of whom gave their lives for this country, might have felt had that cross been removed from their memorial cemetery. Thankfully, Mr. HUNTER's legislation passed and was signed into law, but I am stunned at how far our society has fallen when people are compelled to sue a major city to have a cross removed from, of all places, a memorial cemetery.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot continue to allow frivolous and, frankly, unwarranted lawsuits to stifle the beliefs and self-determination of our great communities. This is a textbook example of an issue that needs to be addressed by this Congress.

I have always believed that one man's rights end where another man's rights begin, and we need to draw the line to clarify our first amendment and ensure impartiality for legal challenges.

The rule we are debating today would allow for the consideration of H.R. 2679, the Veterans' Memorials, Boy Scouts, Public Seals, and Other Public Expressions of Religion Act of 2006. I want to thank Mr. HOSTETTLER for sponsoring this legislation and Chairman SENSENBRENNER for the opportunity to discourage frivolous obstruction to our constitutional rights of religious expression.

The Public Expression of Religion Act would prevent Federal courts from